REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present invention is requested, in view of the above-amendments to claims 10 and 11 and the following remarks. In particular, the claimed invention has been amended to clarify that the magnetic powders are bound **by oxidization** to each other. It is noted that it is necessary to perform heat treatment **at oxidizing ambient (for about 60 minutes)**, and evaporating the resin powder, which includes the lubrication function for binding the magnetic powders to each other by oxidization. (See page 15, paragraph [0055] of the present specification).

Moreover, claims 10 and 11 have been amended to recite that the composition amount of the resin powder is restricted to **0.01-0.50 weight percent relative to the total weight after the molding and the thermal treatment.**

According to the present invention, high strength under high temperature condition of the soft magnetic green compact is achieved, because the binding with oxidization of the magnetic powders is stronger than the binding of the resin powder. (See page 12, paragraph [0045], and page 15, paragraph [0056] of the present specification). Furthermore, when the heat treatment is performed **at oxidizing ambient,** the composition amount of the resin is reduced. (See page 8, paragraph [0036] of the present specification). Thus, the high strength under high temperature condition of the soft magnetic green compact is achieved. (See page 12, paragraph [0046] of the present specification). Furthermore, high resistivity of the soft magnetic green compact by binding the magnetic powders by oxidization is achieved. (See page 12, paragraph [0046] of the present specification).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The U.S. Patent No.6,641,919 ("Hayashi") and U.S. Patent No. 5,350,558 ("Kawato") references, alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest the above-mentioned features

of the present invention. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 10-16 and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hayashi in view of Kawato is respectfully traversed. The references are discussed in further detail below.

The Hayashi Reference

Hayashi describes a "resin-bonded type magnet" prepared by molding a composition comprising a magnetic powder and resin binder by using a thermosetting resin molding machine. (See col. 2, lines 11-35 of the reference). That is, Hayashi describes a method for molding the magnetic powder **by binding the resin binder** to each other. In particular, Hayashi describes a **resin-bonded type** magnet, which does not include heat treatment at oxidizing ambient. Thus, Hayashi does not describe the green compact molded **by binding the magnetic powders by oxidization to each other**.

The Kawato Reference

Kawato describes a method of molding the magnetic powder coated by resin. Kawato also describes thermal treatment after molding. the thermal treatment is performed, for example, at 260°C or 350°C **for 2 or 3 minutes**, so that the polymer is fused and crystallized whereby recombination is progressed and the strength of the polymerbonded type magnet can further be improved. (See col. 13, lines 34-37, col. 24, lines 23-25, col. 31, lines 51-68, col. 40, lines 25-28 and col. 47, lines 58-65 of the reference). Further, Kawato describes thermal treatment performed at 150°C for one hour **under reduced pressure**. (See col. 24, lines 23-25 and col. 40, lines 25-28 of the reference). That is, the thermal treatments of Kawato are performed for very short period or at **under reduced pressure** so that the resin powder as the binder only fuses and does not evaporate. As such, there is no evidence or suggestion to bind the magnetic powders to each other by oxidization by the thermal treatment of Kawato. That is, Kawato does not describe that magnetic powders are bound by oxidization. Moreover, according to Kawato, the strength of the magnetic compact is maintained by binding between

the resins. Therefore, there is no indication that high strength under high temperature is achieved.

The Combined References

As discussed above, Hayashi and Kawato merely describe, *inter alia*, magnetic powders that are bound by resin. As such, there is clearly no description or suggestion whatsoever that **the magnetic powders are bound by oxidization**. Further, there is no evidence or suggestion to modify either of the references to achieve such a result. Therefore, the claimed invention, as presently amended, is novel and unobvious over the above-cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

The provisional double patenting rejection of claims 10-17 over claims 1-3, 5, 8-11 and 16-19 of copending Application No. 10/321,377 is obviated by amendment. In particular, the copending application does not describe or contain claims in which **the magnetic powders are bound by oxidization**.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants thank the Examiner for signing the PTO Form 1449, filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on December 12, 2003. However, Applicants note that the Examiner did not acknowledge consideration of any of the foreign references recited on the form. Accordingly, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner initial next to each of the foreign references, and forward the form to Applicants' representative with the mailing of the next Office Communication.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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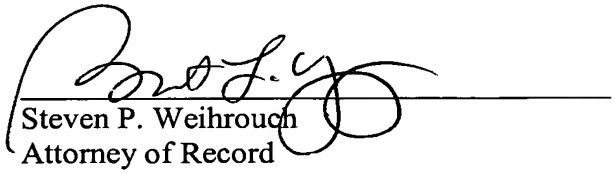

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